

**Amendments to the Claims**

**Listing of Claims:**

1-18 (canceled).

19 (previously submitted). A method of forming a tiled countertop, comprising the steps of

providing a base that comprises vertically extending walls with an opening at the top of the walls,

providing a preformed, self supporting tile substrate consisting essentially of a mixture that includes cement, expanded polystyrene and water,

placing the preformed, self supporting tile substrate directly onto the base, with the preformed, self supporting tile substrate in direct contact with the vertical walls of the base and covering the opening at the top of the walls, and thereafter

placing one or more tiles on the preformed self supporting tile substrate.

20 (previously submitted). The method of claim 19, wherein the step of providing a preformed, self-supporting tile substrate consists essentially of forming a mixture with the following ratio of materials: 14 cu feet of small expanded polystyrene beads, 230 pounds Portland cement, 70 pounds fly ash, 18 gallons water, and a selected amount of reinforcement.